

REMARKS

The following remarks are submitted in response to the Official Action dated June 4, 2007. In the Official Action, claims 1-3, 5-17, and 19-24 were rejected. Claims 1, 12, 15-17, and 21 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-3, 5-17, and 19-24 remain pending for consideration. Applicants submit that these claims are in condition for allowance and request withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

The Examiner objected to the title of the application as being non-descriptive. Accordingly, the title has been amended to "Computer System and Method for Transmitting User Status Information." In light of this amendment, Applicants request that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 5-17, and 19-24 were objected to for the informality of reciting "partway-through game." The Examiner alleges that the specification does not clearly define this limitation.

"Partway-through" is used several times in the specification. (See, e.g., ¶¶ [0103], [0111], [0113]). In each appearance of the term, "partway-through" is used in its plain and ordinary sense. That is, "partway-through game" indicates that a game is partially completed. Thus, for example, "partway-through game" may signify that a portion of the game, but not the entire game, has been played by a user.

Because the term "partway" or "part way" is a common English word (see [www.m-w.com](http://www.m-w.com)) which means "to some extent: PARTIALLY, PARTLY" and the phrase "partway-through" is used in a manner consistent with this meaning in the specification (e.g., "partially through" or "partially complete"), Applicants submit that the term is clear. Accordingly,

Applicants request that the objection to the claims 1-3, 5-17 and 19-24 be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 19-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by International Publication No. WO 99/55055 to Kupka (hereinafter "Kupka").

Claim 1 recites, inter alia, a verification server operable to:

request user status information from the user computers representing data of partway-through games and data stored in at least one of the recording medium and the user computer from the user computers and for transmitting the user status information to the desired content server; and

receive information corresponding to the user status information from the content database of the desired content server and for transmitting content information from the desired content server to the user computers to thereby provide the content requested by the user computers and upgrading or debugging programs based on the user status information of individual user computers.

Kupka, however, fails to teach these limitations.

Kupka discloses a method of electronically distributing sensitive information over a network. See *Kupka*, page 9, lines 6-12. In this method, a network server stores data for distribution. See *id.*, at page 14, lines 1-5. A client establishes a connection with the server, and selects data for download. See *id.*, at page 14, lines 6-19. An identifier is used to encrypt the data as it is downloaded, enabling the data to be stored without being accessible by media which lacks the identifier. See *id.*, at page 14, lines

20-25. Accordingly, data that is copied to other storage devices is unusable. *Id.*, at page 14, lines 29-31.

Thus, Kupka merely teaches a method of protecting downloaded data. Kupka nowhere mentions anything similar to requesting the status of a program or data, transmitting the status to the server, or receiving information corresponding to the status. Indeed, Kupka is drawn to entirely different subject matter.

Moreover, Kupka does not mention anything similar to transmitting user status information representing data of partway-through games. Also, Kupka does not, and could not, teach upgrading or debugging programs based on the user status information of individual user computers.

In light of at least the above distinctions, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Kupka. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 12 and 15-24 were rejected on the same grounds as claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1, Applicants request that the rejections of claims 12 and 15-24 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-3, 5-11, and 13-14 depend from one of the independent claims mentioned above. Thus, the limitations of one of the independent claims inhere within each of claims 2-3, 5-11, and 13-14. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-3, 5-11, and 13-14 are patentable over Kupka for at least the reasons discussed in connection with the independent claims, and request that the rejections of these claims be withdrawn.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If,

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however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that she telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which she might have.

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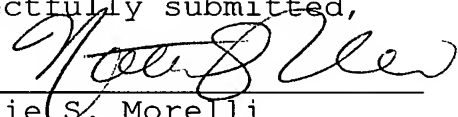
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If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: September 4, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
Natalie S. Morelli

Registration No.: 58,545

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,

KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP

600 South Avenue West

Westfield, New Jersey 07090

(908) 654-5000

Attorney for Applicant

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